

City of San Diego
Park and Recreation Board

March 17, 2011

**DRAFT
MINUTES**

“WE ENRICH LIVES THROUGH QUALITY PARKS AND PROGRAMS”

Meeting Held at:

Balboa Park Club
Santa Fe Room
2150 Pan America Road West
San Diego, CA 92101

Mailing Address is:

City of San Diego
202 C Street, MS 37C
San Diego, CA 92101

Members Present

Wilbur Smith, Chair
Rick Bussell
Bruce Brown
William Diehl
Claudia Dunaway
Vicki Granowitz
Norman Greene
David Kinney
Olivia Puentes-Reynolds
(arrived at 2:50)
Michael Stepner

Members Absent

Roz King

City Staff Present

Stacey LoMedico
Ali Darvishi
Joseph Diab
Jeff Harkness
Christy Haupt
Jo-Ann Novak
Robin Shifflet
Ken So
Deborah Van Martin

CALL TO ORDER – Chair, Mr. Smith, called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF JANUARY 20, 2011

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED Mr. Bussell /Ms. Dunaway

A motion was made by Mr. Bussell and seconded by Ms. Dunaway to approve the January 20, 2011 meeting minutes with a revision to Item 201. Vote was unanimous to approve the meeting minutes. (6-0-2 abstentions).

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Consent At this time the Board may consider adoption of one or more items on the adoption agenda as “Consent” items.

A motion was made by Ms. Granowitz and seconded by Ms. Dunaway to move Item 102. Designation of Torrey Pines City Park as a Regional Park presenter Jeff Harkness, Park Designer, City Planning and Community Investments and Item 104. Naming of Chollas Lake Park Fishing Pier in Memory of Joe Bain (deceased) presenter Christy Haupt, District Manager, Community Parks II to the consent agenda.

A motion was made by Mr. Bussell and seconded by Ms. Dunaway to approve the consent agenda. Vote was unanimous (8-0).

REQUEST FOR CONTINUANCE – None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Community Parks I Area Committee

- Synthetic turf was discussed at the March 2 meeting with discussion on the pros and cons of its use.

Community Parks II Area Committee

- Ms. Puentes-Reynolds reported that some committee members did not feel valued at the meeting and expressed a number of concerns.
- Committee members were told that funds had been identified for lighting at Willie Henderson, but the lighting was never installed.
- Recreation Council Chairs from the CPII Area Committee are not able to make the Park and Recreation Board meeting due to the time and have requested that the Board have an evening meeting on a quarterly basis.
- The Committee does not support synthetic turf, they feel the cost exceeds that of natural turf.
- The Committee asked about recycled water. This was discussed at the February meeting. (Ms. LoMedico will provide a copy of the minutes to Ms. Puentes-Reynolds.)
- The Committee had a concern regarding the replacement of lights in the office at the Paradise Hills Recreation Center.

Board Members Comments:

- Mr. Smith seemed to agree that the committee was agitated and there was a lack of understanding as far as the 20 year “needs list”. Items on the list do not necessarily mean that they will be completed. Mr. Smith felt there was a difference of opinion on the synthetic turf issue and what was best for the community.
- Ms. Puentes-Reynolds has been attending these meetings for some time and this has been the first time that this topic has been addressed. (Ms. LoMedico stated for the record that she attended the February meeting and there was open end conversations for 1 hour and not one of these issues were brought forward.)

Balboa Park Committee

- Sewer line impact of the 163 freeway closing both lanes on the weekend. The schedule to re-open was originally to be at 11:00 a.m. but thanks to the efforts of Balboa Park City staff: Susan Lowery-Mendoza, Bruce Martinez and Ranger Casey Smith, the freeway will re-open at 9:00 a.m.
- Next Balboa Park Committee meeting is on April 7, 2011 and will include a workshop on alternative of Environmental Impact Report (EIR) on Plaza de Panama Circulation and Parking Structure Project and a presentation by Balboa Park on 2015 Celebration Host Committee.

Design Review Committee

- Palisades Park Comfort Station upgrade project was presented and the recommendations the Committee made will be addressed in the presentation of this project, which is on today's agenda.
- Committee took a tour of the Japanese Friendship Garden to view the \$12 million improvement project that is in progress.

Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve Citizens' Advisory Committee – No Report

Mission Bay Park Committee

- Mr. Bussell reported at the February meeting two action items were approved: The Colon Cancer 5k run to be held on March 19 and the Atlas fitness 5k run on May 8, 2011.
- Sewer Water Placement Project has been started and is expected to be completed by February 2012, with the construction taking a moratorium over Memorial Day through Labor Day.
- No meeting in March.

Mission Trails Regional Park Citizens' Advisory Committee

- The Cowles Mountain Trail Sign Program was extensively discussed at the January meeting. An Ad-Hoc Committee was formed that included Citizens' Advisory Committee (CAC) members, selected Fire, Police, and Park and Recreation Department staff. Currently, when someone is hurt within the park there is not appropriate signage to notify that someone needs help. The Ad-Hoc Committee was formed to plan a standardized method of notification. At the March meeting, it was reported that the plan had been fairly well-standardized.
- A consultant was hired in January and a 12 months process to include the Natural Resource Management Plan expanded area of East Elliot.
- Need for a suspended or truss bridge across the San Diego River crossing trail so that there is a way to cross when the river rises. At the March meeting it was decided that a suspended or truss bridge would be included in the Master Plan "wish list".
- At the March meeting it was decided upon that CAC would take a tour, conducted by the County Water Authority, to see the almost completed mitigation of the retrofit station process that has been going on throughout the park. Two weeks ago 13 members reviewed that area and commended the Department for a great job.
- Foundation report indicated that a record of 8,004 people had visited the park in January. This record shows that the park is gaining popularity and usage.

Tecolote Canyon Citizens' Advisory Committee

- Mr. Bussell reported that the February meeting was a celebration for Eloise Battle years if service.
- The Committee moved to implement the Volunteer Training Program which is a basic training of the park to be developed for new volunteers.
- A water hydrant break in canyon is in mitigation with Public Utilities Department to be resolved.
- Mitigation project which includes the removal of palm trees in the canyon is ongoing.

- The Drone Project (sky hiking video) with San Diego State University is mapping trails to allow citizens who aren't able to use the trails to take a virtual hike of the canyon.
- San Diego State University is also mapping vernal pool sights to protect them.
- Partnering with San Diego River Park to post activities going on in Tecolote Canyon on their web site.

Torrey Pines City Park Advisory Committee – No Report

COMMUNICATIONS

(Limited to items not on the agenda. Each one will be limited to three minutes and is not debatable.)

- Mr. Bussell reminded the Board that on Saturday, March 26 is Canyon Clean-up and April 16, 2011 is the 26th Linda Vista Multi-Cultural Fair.
- Mr. Greene invited the Board to attend the Louis Rose Memorial Plaque dedication on Thursday, March 24th at Naval Training Center (NTC) Park.
- Ms. Granowitz announced that Rob Steiche is no longer on the Balboa Park Committee Board as the North Park representative.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

- Mr. Smith spoke on the upcoming budget and the effect that some cuts are coming and the burden it puts on staff. The April meeting will focus on the Fiscal Year 12 Proposed Budget.
- Attended the memorial service for Fred Meyer who was a Park and Recreation Department Project Officer.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Reminder for Board Members that the Statement of Economic Interests (SEI) is due to the City Clerk by April 1 with a wet signature. The City Clerk's office will be closed on March.
- Ms. LoMedico distributed the following:
 - Photo of picnic tables that have been tiled for installation at Colina del Sol Park
 - Article on Ms. Senior San Diego Pageant
 - Good News e-mails
 - Two Department Instructions moving forward: 1) Synthetic Turf coming to the Board in May and 2) Community Gardens on Park Land should be coming to Board in July.
- Budget will be released by Friday, April 15; the Park and Recreation Board will have a budget meeting on Thursday April 21.
- On May 5 Park and Recreation Department staff will be presenting the budget to City Council at 9:00 a.m. in Council Chambers. On the Park and Recreation Department site there is a link that has the schedule of departments presenting to City Council.
- Montgomery-Waller Comfort Station/Concession project will open on Thursday, March 24.
- At the March 23, 2011 Natural Resources and Cultural (NR&C) Committee meeting there will be an update by the Centennial Group on the Balboa Park 2015 Celebration.
- Centre City Development Corporation (CCDC) staff will come to the Board in late summer to provide an update on the downtown implementation of Parks and Open Space Program. Currently, CCDC is working on the Dog Off Leash Area, as well as the redevelopment of Horton Plaza which will include a new open space park.

- Friday, March 11, 2011, Scott Reese went to Sacramento to accept the California Parks and Recreation Society (CPRS) award of Excellence for Park Planning and Design of a Community Park for Ocean Air in 2010.

Board Members Comments:

- Mr. Smith mentioned the Schmidt Design Group was noted on the plaque and that he viewed Val's Garden at Mt. Acadia and it looked nice.
- Mr. Diehl asked if there were to be any surprises in the upcoming Department fee schedule. (Ms. LoMedico said there would not be any since we are not looking at across the board fee increases.)
- Mr. Bussell asked about the on-line registration. (Ms. LoMedico said that Scott Reese will be going to the Committees every 90 days and it should be rolling out to the Carmel Valley and Tierrasanta Recreation Centers to be on-line in the fall.)

ACTION ITEMS

101. Home Avenue Neighborhood Park General Development Plan

Debbie Van Martin, Project Manager, Public Works and Scott Sandel, Landscape Architect, Nowell and Associates presented a comprehensive report on Home Avenue Neighborhood Park General Development Plan.

Board Members Comments:

- Mr. Bussell asked if the \$900,000 in funding was still coming from the City Heights Redevelopment Fund. (Ms. Van Martin indicated that the project would go before the City Heights Redevelopment Fund Subcommittee in April and then to City Council in May for approval.)
- Mr. Greene asked who pays for the rubberized pavement. What is the life span of rubberized pavement? Who pays for the maintenance or replacement of the rubberized pavement? Where is the parking on the periphery of the area and is it accessible for the elderly to get to the park? What preparations have been made for the creeks overflowing, what is the potential water damage to the park? (Ms. Van Martin stated that the cost for the rubberized pavement was \$300,000 to \$400,000 and the funding is identified to come from the City Heights Redevelopment fund and that City Heights is to pay for paving and street improvements on Home Avenue.) Mr. Greene asked if the maintenance would ever come out of the Park and Recreation Department budget. (Ms. Van Martin stated that City General Services will maintain the rubberized pavement. The expected life span of rubberized pavement is estimated at 30 years. There are two entrances to the park. The major entrance is on the Southside of the park with accessible and senior parking and then on the North side there is also accessible parking. Each entrance has 28 to 30 spaces. There is a 20 foot buffer creating a barrier by split rail fence in addition to being already 2 feet above the 100 year flood plan. The 100 year flood plan is contained within the channel according to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) map. It is a natural channel with Arrundo weed which would be removed and maintained.)

- Mr. Diehl asked when we compute acreage of park which is used the 1.8 or the 5.8? (Ms. LoMedico stated that for General Plan Standards it is the total acreage 5.8. The Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) staff will then break down usable and unusable acreage.)
- Ms. Granowitz asked if the issue of the road widening and plan amendment was resolved by staff. (Ms. Van Martin stated that the request was sent to Community Planning and Investment and a memo was received that said amendment would be very costly and that no funds were available to initiate the process. Further review by staff from Planning and Transportation Division stated that plans should not preclude future improvements of Home Avenue and at the same time remove all widening maintaining one lane of traffic both ways.) Ms. Granowitz would like to see something in the report that documents what the resolution is so that in the future there is a record of what the conclusion was.
- Mr. Smith wanted to verify that most of the improvements were going on the 1.8 acres and the cost for the project is \$4.3 million. Why so expensive? (Ms. Van Martin stated as it went through the committee process they were asked to include a comfort station along with street traffic lights, in addition to the noise mitigation, there is wetland and hazardous material mitigation).
- Mr. Stepner stated that the improvement cost would open the rest of the park and the park was necessary.
- Mr. Greene commented that while the costs were high the cost of not doing something in the area was even higher. Parks are needed in this area to improve the quality of life to people living in this low income area.

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED Ms. Granowitz /Mr. Greene

A motion was made by Ms. Granowitz and seconded by Mr. Greene to approve the plan as presented including the community committee request as formally submitted to the City, plan amendment for the deletion of the widening of Home Avenue and that the report reflect that and the need for future resolution. Vote was unanimous (8-0).

102. Designation of Torrey Pines City Park as a Regional Park

Item was moved to the Consent Agenda.

103. Palisades Park Comfort Station

Ali Darvishi, Project Officer II, of Public Works Department presented the design and upgrades of the Palisades Park Comfort Station.

Board Members Comments:

- Mr. Diehl wanted to know the type of material that was being used on the urinals and sinks. (Mr. Darvishi stated that they were metal and no urinals were being used, only individual stalls.) Mr. Diehl wanted to know if the commodes were manual or self flushing. (Mr. Darvishi said they were manual flushing.)
- Ms. Granowitz stated that this project went to Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) Committee. (Ms. LoMedico explained that the Pacific Beach Recreation

Council disbanded many years ago. It has been combined with the Santa Clara Recreation Council under the name Santa Clara/Pacific Beach Park and Recreation Council. Per policy, this project went to the Planning Committee's sub-committee. You will notice in the next report which goes before the Santa Clara/Pacific Beach Park and Recreation Council.)

- Ms. Puentes-Reynolds wanted to know what types of toilets are being used. (Mr. Darvishi commented that they were all low-flush and there were no dual flushing toilets).

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED Mr. Stepner /Mr. Bussell

A motion was made by Mr. Stepner and seconded by Mr. Bussell to approve the project as presented. Vote was unanimous (9-0).

104. Naming of Chollas Lake Park Fishing Pier in Memory of Joe Bain (deceased)

Item was moved to the Consent Agenda.

105. Mission Bay Athletic Area Comfort Station

Ali Darvishi, Project Officer II, of Public Works Department presented the design of Mission Bay Athletic Area Comfort Station

Board Members Comments:

- Mr. Diehl wanted to know what type of doors were going to be installed on the concession stand. (Mr. Darvishi stated that shutters were being used with outside doors.) Mr. Diehl wanted to know from staff if we rent or lease these concession stands to the organization. (Ms. LoMedico-No; it is part of any fees they would pay in permitting and their league fees.) Mr. Diehl asked if there is a separate water and electric meter on the concession stand that they pay? (Ms. LoMedico-No, unless they acquired a special use permit, issued by the Department for non-exclusive use, then they would pay all utilities which would include all water and electricity, per new Special Use Permit (SUP.) If they are renting the field, as most of our leagues do, they do not pay for water and electricity. They pay the appropriate fee per the fee schedule.)
- Mr. Bussell wondered why we are not looking into the use of solar panels. Is it viable to consider the use of solar panels? (Mr. Darvishi said that there is minimal use after hours and they are using low-watt lighting. Solar panels would increase the cost of the project and the upkeep would be a greater cost.) Mr. Bussell noticed an article on wind energy design for home owners and with newer technology was interested in knowing if some of these alternatives can be looked at in the future. (Ms. LoMedico referenced that in all the reports there is a Council Policy in terms of water and energy and the Department adheres to that policy. Ms. LoMedico will work with Engineering and Capital Projects to think creatively. In terms of their requirements, we only require and Council only requires that they look at the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certifications for buildings per say not modernization for existing buildings or comfort stations. Will look into working with solar panels and the double flow toilets for the future.)

- Mr. Greene asked if there will be greenery around the building. (Mr. Darvishi-the project sits on an asphalt parking lot. Ms. LoMedico stated that a visual would be helpful. This area is in an isolated spot and surrounded by much needed parking.) Mr. Greene wanted to know why the last two restrooms do not include urinals, is there a maintenance reason for that? (Mr. Darvishi-These are very small stalls.) Mr. Greene-So how does that effect maintenance costs, because I noticed that there are four ball fields, one would suspect that the majority users of this restroom are going to be men. (Ms. LoMedico has not seen any annual cost calculated associated with these types of restrooms, which have become more popular over the years to have the family style, then individual stalls. Actually, individual stalls are easier to maintain.)
- Ms. Puentes-Reynolds suggested looking into waterless urinals in the future.
- Mr. Smith is concerned with the excessive of the cost of these projects.

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED Ms. Puentes-Reynolds/Mr. Bussell

A motion was made by Ms. Puentes-Reynolds and seconded by Mr. Bussell to approve the project as presented. Vote was unanimous (9-0).

INFORMATION ITEMS – None

ADJOURNMENT – The meeting was adjourned at 3:49 p.m.

Next Regular Meeting: **Thursday, April 21, 2011 2:00 p.m.**

Balboa Park Club, Ballroom
2150 Pan America Road
San Diego, CA 92101

Submitted by,

Stacey LoMedico,
Park and Recreation Director